

For Democracy's Sake , Please Support Media Diversity

I am writing to express my opposition to reducing existing restrictions on media ownership concentration, which will be voted on by the FCC on June 2nd (Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules).

As you well know, if existing restrictions are weakened, one company could dominate a region's access to information by controlling the content of its radio stations, television stations, newspapers and cable systems. Not only would this threaten basic American values of competition and localism, I believe this would be a profoundly anti-democratic development for our country.

Further, as programming decisions are wrested from our local communities and made instead in distant corporate headquarters, our citizenry (including our children) will be exposed to more and more offensive material. Perhaps most important is that if ownership restrictions are reduced (or eliminated), it would be extremely difficult, if at all possible, to return to a less concentrated ownership structure.

Given the stakes, this issue deserves a national debate. Yet FCC Chairman Michael Powell, has resisted calls to hold public hearings. Only under pressure from FCC member Michael Copp, and the wider public, did it agree to hold one official hearing in Richmond, VA. This is intolerable.

I urge you to tell FCC Chairman Michael Powell and the other Commissioners to stop their plans to end critical safeguards designed to help ensure diversity of media ownership. I also urge you to call on the FCC to ensure there are more public hearings to discuss how such proposals will affect my community and the nation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

Terry Hasan